

August 15, 2007

The Honorable Phil Isenberg, Chair and Members, Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force State of California Resources Agency 1416 Ninth St., Suite 1311 Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: San Francisco Estuary Project Actions Relevant to Delta Vision Process

Dear Chair Isenberg and Members of the Task Force:

On behalf of the San Francisco Estuary Project's Implementation Committee I am writing to urge the Task Force to consider possible impacts to San Francisco Bay in your effort to prepare a strategy for managing the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta ecosystem. As you may know the Estuary Project's Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) maps out a blueprint of resource and habitat protection for the entire San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary.

The Estuary Project is a federal-state-local partnership established in 1987 under the Clean Water Act's Section 320: National Estuary Program. It is a cooperative effort working to promote effective management of the Bay-Delta Estuary and to restore and maintain its water quality and natural resources while maintaining the region's economic vitality. The Estuary Project's original CCMP completed in 2003. The Estuary Project's Implementation Committee recently adopted a revised CCMP which was based on input from more than 80 representatives from federal and state agencies, local governments, environmental groups, business and industry, academia, and the public. The 2007 CCMP is being forwarded to the Estuary Project's Executive Council for review and expected concurrence. The 2007 CCMP contains many actions pertinent to the Bay and the Delta that are relevant to your effort, and I am including a copy with this letter for your review and consideration.

While we applaud the Delta Vision's efforts to develop a strategy, we are concerned that impacts to San Francisco Bay will be excluded. A long-term strategy for the Delta's management and restoration should incorporate impacts downstream. While it is true that many endangered fish species depend on the Delta, parts of their life cycles are spent in San Francisco Bay. Also, many waterfowl and shorebirds depend on the habitat rimming the Bay. Additionally, the entire San Francisco Bay system has suffered from impacts due to the altered flow regime and freshwater diversions, and we believe that it is equitable and more effective to include the entire Estuary in addressing these impacts.

We recognize from our own consensus-based efforts on behalf of ecosystem restoration how difficult a task you face in attempting to craft solutions with such a diverse array of interests, but we encourage you to include San Francisco Bay and CCMP actions in your Delta Vision.

If you would like additional information or clarification about the 2007 CCMP or our request, please contact Marcia Brockbank, SFEP Program Manager at 510-622-2325 or mbrockbank@waterboards.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Mumley, Ph.D.

Implementation Committee Chair

Enclosure